

Buffalo County Local Emergency Planning Committee

Quarterly Meeting October 24, 2005

Chairman Loewenstein called the meeting to order at 7:07 P.M. at the Law Enforcement Center, 2025 Avenue A, Kearney, Nebraska.

Roll call

present (9): Amy Elwood, Vern Fiala, Judy Jobman, Darrin Lewis, Tim Loewenstein, Dan Lynch, Mike Martinosky, Wesley Quail and Dan Saathoff

excused (8): Robert Anderson, Don Engel Jr., Dale Gibbs, Michael Morgan, Kim Schmidt, Harlan Simmerman, Jerry Thompson and Ken Tracy.

absent (0)

There was a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Lewis, seconded by Lynch to approve the minutes of July 25, 2005. Motion carried.

Oral Communication

Emergency Manager Lewis advised the group the Mobile Command Center is back from North Carolina. Currently it is being wired, with radios and other communication equipment being installed and hopefully very soon will be equipped and available for any emergency. He also advised he had just returned from (DCC) Dialogic Communications Corporation held in Santa Fe, New Mexico for High Speed Notification training. He explained some of the benefits and capabilities of the system to expedite communication with select groups, key personnel or entire communities-at-risk. This will make Personnel free to focus on situation at hand versus placing/taking calls, allow GIS integration for map-driven notification of specific geographic areas, will allow pre created groups notification within minutes instead of hours and availability 24/7.

Amy Elwood informed us about the new ID system purchased by Two River Health Department and the Emergency Manager. It is made by Claritus. It has the capability of scanning someone's drivers license and their picture and ID number is automatically added to the database and the new card. It can print one or two sided, has magnetic strip and bar code options. You can create your own graphics to add to the card or use some pre-made ones. They are able to print black and white temporary IDs for spontaneous volunteers. It is VERY portable as it comes in a hard case on wheels. A laptop, color printer, camera, ID scanner, and black and white printer are included. They also purchased time expiring ID's which will show red lines through the ID after 24 hours. Darrin and Amy are working with others on a logo for insertion on each card for cohesion between all entities.

Mike Martinosky gave a report on the Gibbon School Hazmat Exercise stating several entities were involved and that it was a good exercise and beneficial information was gained.

Old Business

LEPC shirts were an item addressed under old business. With the absence of Bob Anderson due to another commitment, an example of the possible logo was presented by Dan Saathoff who advised he was working with Eaton Corporation for the possible partnership purchasing of our shirts. In the near future, a draft of the logo and a request for our shirt sizes will be given to Judy for circulation and compilation to return to the sub-committee.

New Business

Chairman Loewenstein updated the group on the (CNRI) Central Nebraska Regions Interoperability Project. Loewenstein advised the evaluation committee consisting of himself; Sheriff Neil Miller and Mike Jeffries from the State of Nebraska had met read word for word the 10 presentations of RFP and interviewed four finalists: ArInc, Interop Solutions, M/A Com and Motorola. From those four the committee found two companies both offering excellent programs so narrowed their selection to those two very qualified candidates. ArInc from Maryland and Interop Solutions from Arizona returned to Kearney to answer more detailed questions concerning their proposal, and present hands on information. The Buffalo County Board signed an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) with Interop Solutions, which allows the implementation of the CNRI project with installation and testing of Buffalo County. Through the MOU the project can proceed while the details of the contract are being completed. The MOU will serve as a mini contract and will become a part of the completed contract following final and best negotiations with the “intent to award” to be made at a later date.

Dan Lynch explained the Radiological Monitoring Equipment which is owned by (UNK) University of Nebraska-Kearney but available for others to use in the area.

Emergency Manager Darrin Lewis and Amy Elwood Emergency Response Coordinator for Two Rivers Public Health Department were in attendance for a presentation of the plan and overview of the relationships, responsibilities and guidelines for a coordinated response between the Two Rivers Public Health Department, Buffalo County Emergency Management, the medical community, regional, state and federal support systems in responding to public health emergencies. The Sub-Hub orientation exercise is done to improve readiness by affording participants the opportunity to ask questions and offer different views, approaches and suggestions for improvement of the current resources, plans and training.

Chairman Loewenstein explained a new radon program the National Association of Counties has implemented with free radon test kits available to Buffalo County can earn 200 free radon test kits.

In recognition of National Radon Action Month in January, the National Association has launched a new County Radon Outreach Program for member counties. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has found that radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year. About 2,900 of these deaths occur among people who have never smoked, according to the EPA.

Radon is an elusive radioactive gas that is invisible and odorless. It can seep through any crevice it may find from cracks in walls to gaps around pipes, and sometimes through the water supply. Radon’s non-discriminating nature means it can enter any type of home or building - new or old, with or without a basement.

To raise awareness of radon, its health effects, and mitigation techniques, the National Association is launching a competitive program that could earn Buffalo County 200 free radon test kits. To earn these test kits to distribute in Buffalo County, simply submit a summary of innovative activities planned to educate Buffalo County residents on radon throughout the month of January. Judy, get your strategy team formed today and follow the instructions below to submit your application.

Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on January 24, 2005 at the (KVFD) Kearney Volunteer Fire Department Station I, 2211 Avenue A, Kearney, Nebraska at 7:00 P.M.

Reports

Lewis announced the LEOP was updated and copies delivered. He invited all members of the LEPC to a LEPC Conference which will be held at the Kearney Ramada Inn on December 3 and 4th 2005 from 8:00 A.M. until 3:30 P.M. both days.

Discussion was held and it was decided it would be a good idea to have a representative from the Two Rivers Public Health Department as a member of the LEPC. Chairman Loewenstein will make recommendation to the County Board in November for the appointment of Amy Elwood as a member of the LEPC representing the Two Rivers Health Department.

Martinosky advised the Fire Department needs for more space for Hazardous waste equipment, therefore the Mobile Command Unit is possibly going to have to move. He wondered if Buffalo County grant writer Janna Pierce would pursue a grant for expanding the building space at Fire Station II. This expansion would provide secure housing of the Mobile Command unit and also the ability of daily checks of the command unit. The committee was in agreement, and Janna will be contacted.

A possible decontamination emergency call in Gibbon was discussed and the Hazmat team was not required. The questions arose as to when needed what is the cost for the Hazmat Technical team. Martinosky and Lewis reported the team is trained, they have the equipment and the team has their own paging tone and would be activated for a possible contamination at a cost depending on the resources required.

Judy shared some information on polo shirts which were purchased from a vendor by the former Emergency Manager and discussion was held on whether the members of the LEPC would like to purchase individual shirts. It was decided most were interested, but further research should be done on what local vendors could provide and the cost.

Adjournment

Chairman Loewenstein adjourned the meeting at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Judy Jobman, Secretary